Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, line 26 through page 12, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Clustering of the high affinity IgE receptor (FcεRI) by antigen initiates a signaling cascade characterized by tyrosine kinase activation, calcium release and influx and, later, by degranulation and release of inflammatory mediators. In order to examine how FcεRI signaling is negatively regulated, a panel of monoclonal antibodies to mast cell membrane antigens was generated and screened for inhibition of IgE-mediated mast cell degranulation. Two degranulation inhibitory antibodies, designated 1A12 and 5D1, immunoprecipitated a Mr 25 kd protein from surface-iodinated rat basophilic leukemia (RBL-2H3) cells. Lys-C peptide sequence obtained from 1A12-immunoaffinity purified immunoprecipitates was found to be highly homologous to mouse and human CD81. Subsequent cloning and expression of rat CD81 cDNA from RBL-2H3 confirmed that 1A12 and 5D1 recognize rat CD81 and that CD81 cross-linking inhibits FcεRI-mediated mast cell degranulation. Mouse hybridoma 1A12, also known as mouse hybridoma anti-rat CD81: 1A12, was deposited on August 2, 2005, on behalf of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Inc., 330 Brookline Avenue, Boston, MA 02215, U.S.A., at the American Type Culture Collection, 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, Virginia 20110, U.S.A., under Accession No. PTA-6902. Mouse hybridoma 5D1, also known as mouse hybridoma anti-rat CD81: 5D1, was deposited on August 2, 2005, on behalf of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Inc., 330 Brookline Avenue, Boston, MA 02215, U.S.A., at the American Type Culture Collection, 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, Virginia 20110, U.S.A., under Accession No. PTA-6901.